

Weekly Views

January 25, 2013

Utilizing start-up funding from a U.S. Department of Justice Second Chance Act Grant and the collaborative efforts of PEN Products, the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Indianapolis Re-entry Education Facility (IREF), a Braille/Accessible Media transcription project has been established at the IREF Education Building. This project will be a satellite operation under the direction and oversight of the Miami Accessible Media Project, located at Miami Correctional Facility. This provides the opportunity for IREF residents who are Braille/accessible media transcriptionists to continue performing the useful transcription work, during the remainder of their time at IREF. The project expands the capacity of the Miami Accessible Media Project, which saved the State of

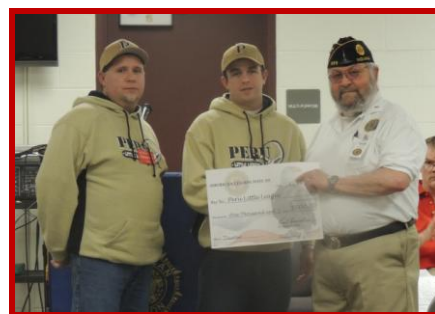
Indiana \$442,000 last year in the production of school educational materials in Braille, large print, and e-Publication/Accessible Media formats for Indiana's blind and visually impaired students.

Miami Correctional Facility's (MCF) American Legion Post 555 presented a check to the Peru Little League for \$1,000. In appreciation of the donation, the Peru Little League (PLL) will place a sign on all five of the ball fields featuring the MCF American Legion Post 555's sponsorship. The legion collected the money through offender food sales. (See photo right of PLL President Blake Barnes, PLL Vice President Sam Childers, and American Legion Post 555 Commander Earl Kimmerling)

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) held a two day pie sale to benefit the facilities employee appreciation fund. Staff members donated over 50 delicious pies some of which came from local bakeries and some that were made from scratch by CIF's talented cooks. Everyone was in agreement that the New Year diet was officially over. The sale generated over \$200 for the appreciation fund which will be used for the employee appreciation week of fun in the spring.

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) participated in a project creating Valentine letters and cards that were sent to the U.S. forces, thanking them for their service and dedication to our country. IWP's Recreation Department sent out the first batch of 70 letters & cards that were created during a card making group initiated by Recreation Leader Maggie Ballard. When word of the project spread, additional help came from the staff and offenders of Ms. Denise Tague's Culinary Arts class, Mrs. Brenda Gullett's Horticulture class and Ms. Tamara Nance's Business Tech class. The collaborative efforts created 122 additional cards and letters that were sent to the troops! "It was really wonderful to see, not only the offender population working well together" said Mr. Dennis Evans, Recreation Director, "but to see the IWP Recreation Department and the staff of Oakland City University working graciously together for our Troops to achieve our goal was rewarding."

The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted the Community Advisory Board meeting for the Plainfield Correctional Complex with a special guest in attendance. Chris Meloy, retired Superintendent and Parole Board Chairman, was on hand as one of the representatives from the Hendricks County Sheriff's Department. RDC also hosted a group of 22 students from DePauw University, who toured the facility and learned about the DOC intake process.



District 45 State Representative Kreg Battles is the newest member of the Wabash Valley Community Advisory Board. Representative Battles recently toured WVCF to learn more about the correctional environment and talk to staff about our proactive re-entry efforts. Superintendent Richard Brown said staff professionalism, pride and sincerity, along with the cleanliness of Wabash Valley were noted by Representative Battles. (see photo left of Superintendent Brown with Representative Battles)

The Indiana State Prison Purposeful Living Unit Served (PLUS) program presented a program to the offender population celebrating Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Vernon G. Smith, State Representative 14th District, was the guest speaker. This is the seventh year the program

has been presented at ISP. The celebration was held in the facility chapel with approximately 125 people in attendance. There were reflections from offenders and volunteers. Dr. Smith gave a community message to the attendees, and offenders performed special musical songs honoring the day for the audience.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) conducted a program to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Frank Beard, Senior Pastor at the Castleton United Methodist Church, served as the guest speaker for the event that was attended by approximately 90 PCF offenders.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility is pleased to announce that Belinda Stamper won the Assistant Food Director of the Year Award. We are proud of Belinda and her accomplishments. She oversees the Inmate to Workmate program at PNJCF and recently organized the Cupcake Wars event.

The staff at Westville Correctional Facility took a break from their work schedules to attend the facility's quarterly roll call. Superintendent Levenhagen opened the assembly with informational and inspiring messages to the staff. During the assembly, several staff were recognized for their years of service and others for their exemplary work performance. A unique and proud moment of the assembly occurred when the perfect attendance staff were recognized; 58 staff were awarded for their six months of perfect attendance.

